

	FOOT PURSUITS	Operations Order 1.8.01
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1. FOOT PURSUITS

- A. This section is intended to provide general direction and guidance to officers when deciding whether to initiate, conduct, or continue a foot pursuit.
- B. Because foot pursuits occur in a wide variety of dynamic and unpredictable circumstances requiring officers to make quick and often immediate decisions, foot pursuits are inherently dangerous and require good judgment, sound tactics, and heightened safety awareness.
- C. Officers may initiate a foot pursuit to apprehend a fleeing subject when officers have reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe the fleeing subject has committed, is committing, or attempted to commit an offense.
 - Refer to [Operations Orders 1.8.00, Search and Seizure](#), for further information on reasonable suspicion and probable cause.

D. Definitions

(1) Foot Pursuit	An enforcement tactic where an officer is on foot actively pursuing a subject who is evading arrest or detention
(2) Chase to Contain	Pursuing with the intent to contain a subject without contact while awaiting additional resources
(3) Chase to Apprehend	Pursuing with the intent to physically detain a subject who is not complying with an officer's authority
(4) Containment	An area or structure where officers have established a perimeter with the intent to prevent the escape of any subject
(5) Controlled Search	A search for outstanding subject/s utilizing a search team and any available and appropriate resources: for example, K9s and the Air Unit

E. General Guidelines

- (1) Officers initiating a foot pursuit should advise via radio, their location, purpose of the foot pursuit, and other possible safety concerns (subject armed, etc.), as soon as practical.
- (2) Tactical Considerations - In deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, officers:
 - Need to consider the reason for the foot pursuit, the totality of the circumstances, and the availability and proximity of other resources (K9, air unit, etc.).
 - Will weigh the necessity to detain the subject/s with the level of risk presented to officer/s and the public.
 - Should consider the alternatives, "chase to contain" versus "chase to apprehend."
 - When an officer involved in a foot pursuit loses sight of the subject, the officer should consider transitioning from "chase to apprehend" to "chase to contain."

NOTE: Additional responding officers should attempt to contain the pursued subject/s unless the initial officer needs immediate assistance.

(3) Additional Safety Concerns

- Is the immediate detention of the subject necessary?
 - Severity of the crime?
 - Is the subject known?
 - Do you know where the subject frequents and/or resides?
 - Does the subject present an immediate threat to the public?
 - Are there any known weapons?
 - Environmental factors such as lighting, weather, and terrain.
 - Officer's knowledge of the area.
 - Proximity of backup or other resources (are they enroute)?
- (continued on next page)

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8. E. (3) Additional Safety Concerns (continued)

- Did the officer lose possession of any of their gear during or prior to the foot pursuit (firearm, radio, flashlight, etc.)?
 - Did the officer lose sight of the subject/s?
 - Did the officer lose track of their location?
 - If a foot pursuit is initiated during a traffic stop, officers should make every effort to visually clear the vehicle for more occupants who may pose a danger to the officer or others.
 - If time and circumstances permit, Department vehicles left unlocked should be secured as soon as possible.
- (4) If the foot pursuit ends in the apprehension of a subject, standard use of force protocols will apply regarding the amount of reasonable force used to affect the apprehension (see [Operations Order 1.5.00, Use of Force](#), for more information).
- In the event of injury or complaint of injury by the subject due to officer's response to resistance, the originating officer will be relieved, as soon as practicable, by another officer not directly or indirectly involved in the incident for the care and custody of the prisoner.
- (5) If the involved subject or officer/s are injured or complain of injury, a supervisor will be notified, and medical treatment will be sought as soon as practical.
- (6) An officer may terminate the foot pursuit if they believe the danger to pursuing officer/s or the public outweighs the necessity for the immediate apprehension of the subject.

F. Undercover/Plainclothes Officers

- (1) Because foot pursuits are inherently dangerous, there is a higher level of concern for undercover/plain clothes officers who engage in a foot pursuit, as the officers:
- Do not possess all the equipment (less lethal tools, additional ammunition, handcuffs, etc.) of a fully uniformed officer.
 - Are not easily identifiable to responding officers or the public.
- (2) When undercover/plain clothes officers engage in a foot pursuit, they will/must:
- (a) Obey all commands when contacted by uniform officers.
 - (b) Declare their status as an officer as soon as practical.
 - (c) Be mindful that responding units may not be aware of their identity.
 - (d) As soon as practical, don body armor.

G. Communications Responsibilities - Upon notification of an officer-involved foot pursuit, the Communications operator will:

- Maintain an accurate status list and log of each transmission in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.
- Immediately assign additional support units (patrol, Air Unit, K9s, etc.).
- Verify and maintain the updated location, direction of travel, subject description, weapons, and type of crime committed.
- Notify a patrol supervisor and Communication supervisor of the incident.

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